

Name of Property Carnegie Libraries of KansasLocation See inventory
(street and number)See inventory
(city, town, or vicinity location)See inventory
(legal description)See inventory
(county)Owner of Property See inventorySee inventory
(street and number)See inventory
(city, town, county)

National Register status:

date approved for nomination to the National Register by Kansas Historic
Sites Board of Review February 21, 1987

date entered in National Register _____

Description: The Carnegie Libraries of Kansas (c. 1902-1921) are located throughout the state, with the greatest concentration being in the southeast. Many of the libraries constructed between 1900 and 1910 are expensive examples of the Beaux Arts style, with little focus on floor plan and space efficiency. The libraries constructed after 1910 exhibit staid Neo-Classical facades and high space utilization, including full basements. None of the libraries are particularly large and many of the libraries are facing serious space shortages, increasing the possibility that insensitive additions will mar the character of the library buildings or that the libraries will be torn down. Most of the libraries stand very near to the central business districts in the towns that they serve. Insensitive changes to their exterior in particular would completely alter the characteristics that these familiar landmarks embody. The interiors of many of the libraries have been altered, beamed ceilings have been covered with acoustic tiles and the original varnished woodwork has been

Description, cont. Page 2

painted. Other changes, such as the replacement of windows, doors, and staircases have occurred. In general, the nominated libraries maintain their original floor-plans and their original detailing, maintaining a high degree of structural and architectural integrity.

Significance See attached sheets.

Form prepared by Martha Hagedorn date December 10, 1986

This property was approved for listing in the Register of Historic Kansas Places by the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review on February 21, 1987
I hereby certify that this property is included in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.



State Historic Preservation Officer

February 21, 1987
Date

The Carnegie Libraries of Kansas (c. 1902-1921) are being nominated to the National Register as part of a thematic resources nomination under criteria A and C for their historical association with the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program and for their architectural significance as a new building type. Sixty-three Carnegie funded libraries were built in Kansas during the first two decades of the Twentieth Century, four of these libraries were built on college campuses. These institutions are Baker University, The College of Emporia (now the Way College of Emporia), Fairmont College (now Wichita State University), and Washburn College (now Washburn University). The College of Emporia (Emporia) and Washburn College (Topeka) libraries are included in this nomination. Thirteen Carnegie libraries have been listed individually on the National Register: Arkansas City, Argentine, Case Library (Baker University, Baldwin City), Caldwell, Dodge City, Emporia, Goodland, Lawrence, Leavenworth, Newton, Ottawa, Parsons, and Pittsburg. Thirteen Carnegie libraries have been demolished: Great Bend, Halstead, Hays, Iola, Kansas City, McPherson, Morrison Library (Fairmont College, Wichita), Olathe, Osawatomie, Plainville, Russell, Salina, and Washington. Four Carnegie libraries have been altered enough to make them ineligible for the National Register: Abilene, Hiawatha, Lyons, and Stockton. Of the remaining thirty-three libraries, twenty-eight of them are included in this nomination (see inventory). The nominations for the Concordia, Eureka, Independence, and Winfield libraries were deferred; the nomination for Garden City library will be considered at a later date. Twenty-two of the nominated libraries retain their original function. All of the buildings are in use or have an active use planned for them. The nominated libraries maintain a high to moderate degree of architectural and structural integrity.

Industrialist Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) and the Carnegie Corporation significantly influenced the development and expansion of public library systems worldwide. Between 1886 and 1921 Carnegie funds assisted in the construction of 1,681 city and 108 college libraries in the United States. Out of the forty-six states to participate in the library building program, Kansas ranks approximately eleventh in the number of Carnegie Libraries built. For many Kansas communities, the Carnegie library represented its first library building.

Eligibility for Carnegie Library funds rested on several factors. Firstly, the population of the community had to exceed 1,000, in Kansas this indicated at least a second class city status. Some communities with populations less than 1,000 banded together with neighboring communities to achieve the 1,000 mark and applied for township libraries, as in the case of the Peabody and Canton Township libraries. In the case of college libraries this constraint may not have applied. Secondly, the applicant had to provide a site for the library. Thirdly, the applicant had to provide an annual endowment for the maintenance and improvement of the library which amounted to at least ten percent of the initial grant from the Carnegie Corporation.

This last factor contributed to the ending of the Carnegie Library Building Program in 1917, although grants for books and other improvements continued for several more decades. An inherent problem for second class cities in Kansas was the .4 mill levy restriction for libraries, making it difficult for some communities to meet the annual ten percent maintenance appropriation solely through public dollars. In Kansas, the average public library grant was \$12,000 and the average college library grant was \$37,000. These monies covered the cost of the building, the necessary furniture and fixtures, and the architects fees.

Prior to 1910, the Carnegie Corporation did not provide design guidelines for the libraries that it funded and because the library was a relatively new building type, architects/builders had little understanding of how to design it. Many of the early libraries were expensive examples of the Beaux Arts style with little focus on floor plan and space efficiency. In 1910, Carnegie's personal secretary James Bertram developed model specifications and floorplans for proposed libraries, entitling his work Notes on Library Buildings. The thirty-six Carnegie libraries built in Kansas after 1910 reflect Bertram's precedents, exhibiting high space utilization, often including full basements, although the raised basement is featured heavily in the earlier libraries as well. The Notes on Library Buildings provided the first widely circulated guidelines for library design in this country.

Bertram wrote:

Small libraries should be pland (sic) so that one librarian can oversee the entire library from a central position.... The bilding (sic) should be devoted exclusively to: (main floor) housing of books and their issue for home use; comfortable accomo-dations for reading them by adults and children; (basement) lecture room; necessary accommodation for heating plant; also all conveniences for the library patrons and staff. Experience seems to sho (sic) that the best results for a small general library are (sic) obtained by adopting the one-story and basement rectangular type of bilding (sic), with a small vestibule entering into one large room sub-divided as required by means of bookcases.... The rear and side windows may be kept about six feet from the floor, to giv (sic) continuous wall space for shelving. A rear wing can be added for stack-room (when future need demands it) at a minimum expense, and without seriously interfering with the library servis (sic) during its construction. The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides, and be large enuf (sic) to allow extension, if ever such should become necessary.

Three architects were particularly active in the design of Kansas Carnegie Libraries, George P. Washburn of Ottawa, Kansas designed eight, A. T. Simmons of Bloomington, Illinois designed six, and William Warren Rose of Kansas City, Kansas designed four.

Today, many of the state's Carnegie Libraries are facing serious space shortages.

The alternatives of adding on or vacating both present preservation problems. Additions to these libraries must be such that the building's original character is not altered. Vacating the library for a larger facility leaves the problem of an empty building, in some communities county historical societies have inherited the empty Carnegie Library. In any event, when these buildings are no longer recognized from a design standpoint as Carnegie Libraries, their architectural significance ceases.

Inventory of Carnegie Libraries in Kansas

<u>SITE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>INVENTORY NUMBER</u>
1. Anthony Public (Carnegie) Library (Harper County) 104 N. Springfield Anthony, Kansas 67003 Owner: City of Anthony Lots 22,23,24; Block 34.	c. 1911	77-0180- 0003 ⁰⁰⁰⁴
2. Burlington Carnegie Free Library (Coffey County) 201 N. Third Burlington, Kansas 66839 Owner: City of Burlington Lots 8,9; Block 35.	c. 1912	31-0690-0015
3. Canton Township Carnegie Library (McPherson County) Box 336 Canton, Kansas 67428 Owner: Canton Township Lots 7,8,9,10,11; Block 2.	c. 1921	113-0790-0001
4. Chanute Public (Carnegie) Library (Neosho County) 102 S. Lincoln Chanute, Kansas 66720 Owner: City of Chanute Lots 2,3; Block 39.	c. 1906	133-0870-0067
5. Cherryvale Public (Carnegie) Library (Montgomery County) 329 E. Main Cherryvale, Kansas 67335 Owner: City of Cherryvale Lots 7,8; Block 39.	c. 1913	125- 0939-0006 ⁰⁹³⁰⁻⁰⁰⁰⁵
6. Clay Center Carnegie Library (Clay County) 706 Sixth Street Clay Center, Kansas 67432 Owner: City of Clay Center Lots 12,13; Block 36.	c. 1912	27-0980-0008

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| <p>7. Coffeyville Carnegie Public Library Building
 (Montgomery County)
 415 West 8th
 Coffeyville, Kansas 67337
 Owner: City of Coffeyville
 Lots 7,8; Block 47.</p> | c. 1912 | ¹⁰⁵⁰
125-2670-0019 |
| <p>8. Columbus Public (Carnegie) Library (Cherokee County)
 205 N. Kanss
 Columbus, Kansas 66725
 Owner: City of Columbus
 Lots 9,10; Block 9.</p> | c. 1913 | 21-1100-0008 |
| <p>9. Council Grove (Carnegie) Library (Morris County)
 303 W. Main Street
 Council Grove, Kansas 66846
 Owner: City of Council Grove
 Lots 1,2,3; Block 19.</p> | c. 1917 | 127-1180-0074 |
| <p>10. Downs Carnegie Library (Osborne County)
 504 S. Morgan
 Downs, Kansas 67437
 Owner: City of Downs
 Lots 8-12; Block 28.</p> | c. 1906 | 141-1400-0002 |
| <p>11. El Dorado Carnegie Library Building (Butler County)
 101 S. Star
 El Dorado, Kansas 67042
 Owner: Dean Seeber
 N 4' Lot 3, Lot 4; Block 4.</p> | c. 1912 | 15-1540-0004 |
| <p>12. Anderson (Carnegie) Memorial Library (Lyon County)
 The Way College of Emporia
 Emporia, Kansas 66801
 Owner: Way College of Emporia
 Located on the Way College of Emporia campus.
 SW, NE1/4, Sec. 9, T19, R11, E. of the 6th p.m.,
 running thence E. 76 rods, thence N. 80 rods,
 thence W. 76 rods, thence S 80 rods to the</p> | c. 1902 | 111-1660-0002 |

Anderson (Carnegie) Memorial Library (Lyon County) cont.

place of beg., except a tract beg. at the S,SW1/4
Sec. 9, thence N. 670 ft., thence E. 540 ft.,thence
S. 250 ft, thence W. 374 ft., thence S. 420 ft.,
thence W. 166 ft. to the point of beg. in Lyon Co.,KS
and Lots Numbered 61,63,65,67,71, and the N. 30 ft. of
Lot F all in Block numbered 3, in College Hill Addition
to the City of Emporia.

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| 13. Fort Scott Public (Carnegie) Library (Bourbon County)
Second and National
Fort Scott, Kansas 66701
Owner: City of Fort Scott
Lots 1,(N1/2) 3; Block 123 | c. 1904 | 11-1830-0016 |
| 14. Girard Carnegie Library (Crawford County)
128 W. Prairie
Girard, Kansas 66743
Owner: City of Girard
Lots 17,18; Block 14. | c. 1906 | 37-2050-0003 |
| 15. Herington Carnegie Public Library (Dickinson County)
102 S. Broadway
Herington, Kansas 67449
Owner: City of Herington
Lots 2,4; Block 40. | c. 1915 | 41-2420-0006 |
| 16. Hutchinson Public (Carnegie) Library Building-
Labor Temple (Reno County)
427 N. Main
Hutchinson, Kansas 67501
Owner: Hutchinson Labor Building Association
Lots 13,14,15; Block 17. | c. 1903-
1904 | 155-2660-0011 |
| 17. Kingman Carnegie Library (Kingman County)
455 N. Main
Kingman, Kansas 67068
Owner: City of Kingman
Lots 101,103,105; Original Town. | c. 1914 | 95-2850-0006 |
| 18. Lincoln Carnegie Library (Lincoln County)
203 S. Third
Lincoln, Kansas 67455
Owner: City of Lincoln
Lot 7; Block 32. | c. 1914 | 105-3189-005 |

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| 19. Lyndon Carnegie Library (Osage County)
127 E. Sixth, P.O. Box 563
Lyndon, Kansas 66451
Owner: City of Lyndon
Lots 4-9; Block 22. | c. 1911 | 139-3360-0003 |
| 20. Manhattan Carnegie Library (Riley County)
Fifth and Poyntz
Manhattan, Kansas 66502
Owner: Riley County Board of Commissioners
Lot 413; Ward 2. | c. 1904 | 161-3490-0016 |
| 21. Osborne Public (Carnegie) Library (Osborne County)
112 S. Sixth
Osborne, Kansas 67473
Owner: City of Osborne
All of Block 12. | c. 1913 | 141-4230-0006 |
| 22. Oswego Public (Carnegie) Library (Labette County)
704 Fourth Street
Oswego, Kansas 67356
Owner: City of Oswego
Lots 1,2,3,4; Block 32. | c. 1912 | 99-4250-0010 |
| 23. Peabody Township Carnegie Library (Marion County)
214 Walnut
Peabody, Kansas 66866
Owner: Peabody Township
Lots 80,82,84 on Walnut. | c. 1914 | 115-4410-0024 |
| 24. Sterling Free Public (Carnegie) Library (Rice County)
132 N. Broadway
Sterling, Kansas 67579
Owner: City of Sterling
Lots 182,184,186,188 on Broadway. | c. 1917 | 159-5225-0006 |
| 25. Washburn University Carnegie Library Building
(Shawnee County)
(Education Building)
Topeka, Kansas 66621
Owner: Washburn University of Topeka
NW 1/4, NE 1/4, SW1/4, S1,T12, R15E | c. 1904 | 177-5400-0017 |

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| <p>26. Wellington Carnegie Library (Sumner County)
 121 W. Seventh
 Wellington, Kansas 67152
 Owner: City of Wellington
 Lots 13,14,15,16,17; Block 53.</p> | <p>c. 1916</p> | <p>191-5730-⁰⁰¹³0012</p> |
| <p>27. Wichita City (Carnegie) Library Building
 (Sedgwick County)
 220 S. Main Street
 Wichita, Kansas 67202
 Owner: City of Wichita
 Lots 24,26,28,30,32,34,36 & 1/2 Vac. Alley Adj.
 on E. & Vac. Alley Ly. N. Lot 24 Exc. Beg. SE Cor.
 Lot 34 W 33.98 Ft. N. 100.56 Ft. W. 16.75 Ft. N. 9 Ft.
 Nwly. 15.36 Ft. W. 6.5 Ft. N. 10 Ft. W. 49 Ft. S. 25
 Ft. W. 25 Ft. N. 58.66 Ft. E. to Cen. Li. Vac. Alley
 on E. Th. S. 115.56 Ft. W. 8 Ft. to SE Cor. Lot 30 S.
 to Beg. Main St. Greiffenstein's Add.</p> | <p>c. 1915</p> | <p>173-5880-0004</p> |
| <p>28. Yates Center (Carnegie) Library (Woodson County)
 218 N. Main
 Yates Center, Kansas 66783
 Owner: City of Yates Center
 Lots 4,5,6; Block 27.</p> | <p>c. 1912</p> | <p>207-6010-0007</p> |

STATE REGISTER LISTING ONLY

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| <p>1. Lyons Carnegie Library Building (Rice County)
 Coronado-Quivira Museum
 105 West Lyon
 Lyons, Kansas 67554
 Owner: City of Lyons
 Southeast corner Block 5, Original Town.</p> | <p>c. 1911</p> | <p>159-3370-0005</p> |
| <p>2. Stockton Public Library (Rooks County)
 124 N. Cedar
 Stockton, Kansas 67669
 Owner: City Of Stockton
 Lots 19, 21, 23, 25; Block 5.</p> | <p>c. 1911</p> | <p>163-5240-0005</p> |